

PetGazette

Western North Carolina

November-December 2018

Volume 7 - Issue 6



Coming Events

Drag Queen Bingo
Paws & Effect program
Riding Home expo
Whiskey and Whiskers

Health

Cancer in pets
Holiday pet hazards
Dangerous decorations

Behavior

Canine Good Citizens
Fun scent work

Calendar of Events

But wait, there's more

CPPI expands help
Dog-matching gifts

Calendar of Events November-December 2018

Legend: AHS=Asheville Humane Society BRAC=Blue Ridge Agility Club BRHS=Blue Ridge Humane Society BWAR=Brother Wolf Animal Rescue CPPI=Community Partnership for Pets Inc. FHS=Foothills Humane Society FUR=Feline Urgent Rescue HOHS=Heart of Horse Sense

November

Fri. 11/2 – 7-9:30 BWAR Drag Queen Bingo at Crowne Plaza followed by After-Party at O’Henry’s of Asheville. Biggest annual fundraiser for BWAR, perhaps biggest laugh-producing event of rescue community. Some details in story, page 11.

More at bwar.org, 828 505-3440
Fri. 11/2 – Sun. 11/4. BRAC US-DAA Agility Trial, Waynesville. blueridgeagility.com

Sat..11/3 – 7- 9pm. FUR Whiskey and Whiskers fundraiser at Elevated Mountain Distillery, 3732 Soco Rd, Maggie Valley. furofwn.org, 1 844-888-2287

Wed. 10/7 – 6:30-8:30pm. Riding Home fundraiser for HOHS at WNC Ag Center. Featuring Tim Hayes, internationally recognized Natural Horsemanship Clinician on how horses help humans heal. **Tickets at HeartofHorseSense.org.**

Sat. 11/10 – 10-11am. HOHS Volunteer Orientation, 7041

Meadows Town Road, Marshall, shannon@heartofhorsesense.org

Sat. 11/10 – 11am-noon. Tour of HOHS Sense and Demonstration of Equine-Assisted Therapy, 7041 Meadows Town Road, Marshall, shannon@heartofhorsesense.org

Sat. 11/10 – 11am-3pm. FHS Happy Mutt Benefit Party at A Taste of Olives & Grapes, Tryon Depot, 22 Depot St., Tryon, NC. \$10/plate to FHS. Silent auction. Advance tickets needed. atasteofolivesandgrapes.com, 828 859-0212.

Thur. 11/22 – Thanksgiving Day all day. Give thanks.

December

Sat. 12/8 - 10-11am. HOHS Sense Volunteer Orientation , 7041 Meadows Town Road, Marshall, shannon@heartofhorsesense.org
Sat. 12/8 - 11am-noon. Tour

HOHS, Demonstration of Equine-Assisted Therapy, 7041

Meadows Town Road, Marshall, shannon@heartofhorsesense.org
Mon. 12/24 – Christmas Eve Tu. 12/25 – Christmas Day. Merry Christmas to all people and pets.

Mon. 12/31 – New Year’s Eve Tu. 1/1/2019 – New Year’s Day. Happy New Year.

Ongoing

Please call or email to confirm events since schedules can change.

Every Saturday morning - 10-11am. BRHS Yoga with Cats! A fantastic yoga class with YAM Yoga and Massage plus the opportunity to mingle with adoptable cats. Venues change. Details at blueridgehumane.org, 828 885-3647

Every third Mon. of the month

- 1-5pm. Low-cost vaccines at BRHS, Hendersonville. blueridgehumane.org, 828 685-7107

Every second Tu. of the month: Hendersonville Paws for Love tests potential therapy dogs. Venues vary. Sign up, get directions at 828 692-5641
Every Wed., Sat., Sun. - 10am. BWAR. Outward Hounds Hiking Club meets at shelter to take dogs on hikes. volunteer@bwar.org.

Every Sat. & Sun. - 10am-5pm. Furever Friends Cat Adoptions. Petco, 825 Brevard Road, Asheville. fureverfriends@att.net; 828 398-4943

Every Sun. - 10am-2pm. AHS Hiking Hounds. Take shelter dogs for hikes. ashevillehumane.org
Every First Sat. - 11:30am-1pm. Volunteer orientation at AHS, 14Forever Friends Lane. volunteer@ashevillehumane.org.

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PetGazette

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The opinions and recommendations of contributors are their own, not necessarily those of **PetGazette**.

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Carol Marks, Publisher
publisher.petgazette@gmail.com
Jim Marks, Editor
editor.petgazette@gmail.com
Rosie, ShihTzu/Terrier
VP Credit & Collections

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AHS Taste of Compassion fundraiser sets record

The 15th annual Taste of Compassion fundraiser for the Asheville Humane Society, (AHS), was bigger than ever and more productive than ever, raising a record total of \$166,783 for local animals in need.

The event was held Saturday, October 15 at the AB Tech Conference Center on Victoria Road in Asheville and drew a record crowd of animal lovers, donors, volunteers and bidders. All enjoyed locally sourced and donated cuisine and adult beverages, while the more limber among the crowd enjoyed dancing to the music of trumpeter/piano player/singer Patrick Lopez.

The food for the event was courtesy of: The Admiral, Aloft Asheville Downtown, Avenue M, Milk and Honey Organic Cafe, Posana, Red Stag, Smoky Park Supper Club, Strada, Twisted Laurel and White Duck Taco Shop. The Wine and

beer were courtesy of Mutual Distributing and Oscar Blues

The donated items purchased in both silent and noisy auctions included everything from artwork to wine to resort stays. Kudos went to Presenting Sponsor Prestige Subaru for donating the entire winning bid for a Subaru Outback to AHS.

Following the festivities, special thanks went to organizing committee co-chairs Richard Fast and Amy Parker, as well as committee members Jim Crowley, Leah Craig Fieser, Jessica Ledger, Letitia McKibbin and Constance Richards. Added special thanks went to volunteer photographers Kristi Hedberg and Caren Harris, and to all those who volunteered at the event as well as during the year to help care for the animals and find them forever homes. 🐾

FUR Whiskey & Whiskers event

Feline Urgent Rescue of WNC (FUR) will hold a Whiskey & Whiskers fundraising event on Saturday, November 3 from 7-9pm at Elevated Mountain Distillery at 3732 Soco Road in Maggie Valley.

The hosting distillery will offer \$5 facility tours and will donate \$4 of each tour to FUR of WNC!

Included with each tour will be a free shot glass containing one of their crafted whiskeys. Helping to welcome guests will be two resident kitties rescued by the owners.

“As an addition to the fun evening,” said Wanda Davis-Browne, event coordinator, “there will be a silent auction that includes a pair of sterling silver earrings from John Laughter Jewelry, an original oil painting, “Catitude”, by Pam Haddock and other pawsome items.” The evening’s door prize will be a basket filled with cat related goodies.



“Catitude”, an original work by Pam Haddock, will be one of the unique items auctioned at the Whiskey & Whiskers silent auction.

FUR of WNC is a nonprofit rescue organization for cats only. The sanctuary where the displaced cats are homed is a 2600 square foot, NC State certified shelter in Waynesville.

It was constructed by and continues to be operated by volunteers and funded privately. At the sanctuary the cats can roam in a cage free, two-story haven.

In addition to donations, FUR relies on fundraisers to maintain the sanctuary. “We hope cat lovers will join us on November 3,” continued Davis-Browne, “to help FUR volunteers continue to house, feed and provide medical attention for the cats and kittens in our charge.”

For more information or to adopt, volunteer, donate or learn more about FUR and its mission of caring for displaced and abandoned felines, visit www.furofwnc.org, www.facebook.com/furofwnc or call 844-888-2287. 🐾

CPPI Expanding to 7 Counties and Counting

Community Partnership for Pets, (CPPI), originally founded to serve the Hendersonville area, is now helping rural North Carolina county-run shelters set up and fund spay/neuter programs.

CPPI is already working with seven new counties - Polk, Rutherford, Vance, Warren, Granville, Beaufort and Pitt. Three additional counties are looking forward to CPPI’s assistance.

“CPPI has given us hope.”

The counties involved have no large humane societies to help them save animals, so many animals entering their shelters never make it out. County-run shelters are required by NC state law to accept all animals brought to them. That means they must euthanize some animals already housed to make room for new arrivals. The shelter staff is saddled with the gruesome daily task of choosing the next animals

to die.

CPPI volunteers are working toward the day when no healthy, adoptable animals die at county-run shelters in NC. One shelter director said, “CPPI has given us hope.”



Janice Mitchell, Founder of PAWS of Rutherford County, works with CPPI.

Founder Mary Cervini said CPPI is helping the shelters physically and financially. “We have even contracted with a mobile spay/

neuter van to visit one of the counties because they are so far out,” she said. She explained that it costs about \$3,000 to get the spay/neuter van to this one county, an expense a poor, rural, county-run shelter cannot afford.

Setting up spay/neuter programs is no easy task. One county has only one vet. And CPPI has a total of only 12 volunteers locally and in these counties helping establish the much-needed programs and procedures.

According to Cervini, CPPI has proved that spay/neuter is a huge part of solving the problem of animals dying in shelters across North Carolina. “However,” she said, “It is the hardest program to implement, fund and maintain. It is hard for donors to support a program whose success is based on what you don’t see – more litters of puppies or kittens.”

CPPI is a private, 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization dependent on donor support. Donations can be made online at communitypartnershipforpets.org, or mailed to Community Partnership for Pets, PO Box 1021, Flat Rock, NC 28731. 🐾

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Get the right gifts for the right dogs

by Emily Brandt

When it comes to getting holiday gifts for your dog, it's important to remember that every dog is an individual. While genetics do play an important role in their behaviors, likes, and dislikes, your dog's L.E.G.S. (Learning, Environment, Genetics, and Self) are important to consider in every aspect of your dog's life including how you're going to spoil them.

Some dogs may not like toys at all and prefer outdoor adventures, treats, or just special time with their favorite person. If so, consider gifts based on your dog's working history or genetic group. If you have a purebred dog, knowing which to genetic group he fits into is easy, but mixes are more challenging. If you don't know your dog's genetic working group, go to thedogkey.com. Put in your dog's physical features and find out his primary and secondary group to guide your choices.

Natural Dogs - Huskies, Akitas, Basenjis, and many more - are the domestic dogs closest to their primitive ancestors. She will be in love with nature, hunting, and getting in touch with her wild side - ie, chasing something for miles. To keep her safe, it can be risky to have her off leash, so a long leash may be a good gift this holiday. Interactive feeders will engage the seeking system in her brain. A harness or pack for your long hikes would be appreciated, as would natural chews like

bully sticks, smoked bones, or petrified cheese chews.

Sight Hounds - such as the Borzoi, Greyhound, Saluki and Wolfhounds - these have a long history as hunters bred to sprint after their prey. The best toy to give your sight hound an appropriate outlet for this chase behavior would be a teaser toy like those made for cats. Those made specifically for dogs can hold up to your sight hound's strength and size. Any ball could also be an appropriate toy to chase, but don't expect your sight hound to bring it back.

Guardian breeds - including Pyrenes, Newfoundland and Mastiffs - are very big, low-drive dogs with a lazy streak. In her moments of playfulness, a gift she may love would be something to chew on - and destroy. Bully sticks, antlers or stuff-able shin bones would be perfect for

her as totally edible and easy to digest. Remember she is a guardian, however, so she may end up resource guarding something so valuable.

Toy dogs - Chihuahuas, Maltese and Havanese and more - were developed as companion breeds, useful for everything from warning barking to warming the laps of nobility. These little princes and princesses enjoy small toys, but it's surprising how many also love larger plush toys and it's fun to watch them drag it around. Small soft



terts are also a great option to spoil them, particularly if they are not the playful type.

Scent Hounds include Bassett hounds, Red tick Coonhounds, Bloodhounds, and many more. They are loveable, passionate, and social. Bred for an unwavering commitment to the scent they are tracking, they can pull for miles and are even better than most dogs at ignoring the person behind them. So a good gift for both of you would be a front-attach harness designed to reduce pulling, or maybe even a head halter such as a Newtrix.

Gun Dogs include all of the partner hunters- Labradors, Golden Retrievers, Spaniels, etc. They are fantastic companions and incredible athletes. They will probably be enthusiastic about anything you bring home for them. A simple ball is the ultimate toy. To go above and beyond, get a ball with a chew warrantee that floats and is dishwasher safe.

Terriers such as the Cairn terrier, West Highland terrier, and Schnauzer have lots of energy and tenacity and love digging! If there's a spot in your

yard for your dog's designated "dig pit", give him a chew with a potent smell, like a trachea or hoof to bury and dig up. If this doesn't work for you, squeaky plush toys- preferably durable ones- can be extra special because then they get to engage their whole predatory sequence on something inanimate!

Bull Dogs - Pit Bulls, French Bull Dogs, Boxers - vary widely in size but have much in common. They can go from a dead sleep to fully engaged play in no time at all. They also generally love to play tug. It is a common misconception that playing tug with your dog will encourage aggression. But played the right way it instills impulse control and very good manners while using up lots of the dog's energy. Rope tug toys or tugs toys hand made from t-shirts or fleeces are perfect for these dogs. If tug isn't your game, a good strong chew toy can be a good choice.

Herding Dogs like Border Collies, Cattle Dogs, and German Shepherds were bred for controlling their external environment, whether that environment includes sheep, cattle, or your children. An appropriate outlet for herding behaviors is crucial since most of us do not have flocks of sheep for our dogs to herd. So a very large plastic ball is perfect for pushing around and training your dog to get into certain spots.

For the majority of the canine world, the mixes, you should rely more on watching your dogs to see what they like. If the dog is new to you, I recommend having at least one chew toy, one tug toy, one squeaky plush toy, and a ball to try to teach fetch. See what your dog keeps going back to, and if all else fails, treats will usually be loved. 🐾

Emily Brandt is the General Manager of The Dog Door Behavior Center in Asheville. Article was written based on her long experience with canine companions and the book "Meet Your Dog" by Kim Brophy, owner of The Dog Door Behavior Center.



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The Holiday Gift

The scene is set. The tree stands in shimmering glory with garland and lights winding like twisting ribbons of color. Music filters softly in the background, merry tunes of carols and jingling bells. Scents of gingerbread and pine drift lazily through the rooms. Boxes of every size and shape line up under the tree, wrapped in colorful papers and bows. Curled in one of those little boxes hides a tiny, furry body—waiting for small and eager hands to open the red-bowed top.

Sounds perfect, doesn't it? Straight from a classic holiday movie. What could be better? Except for that tiny, furry body inside the small, dark box. Let's switch to a new perspective.

You are young, recently separated from your mother and siblings and all you've ever known, taken away by people you don't know. You're scared. They laughed as you were stuffed inside this dark box. You care barely breathe through the small holes poked in the sides and you cannot see anything beyond except a blur of colors. So you huddle and wait, afraid and lonely, your heart pounding in your dark prison, you only want your mother and siblings back.

Now fast forward. A small child grabs your box and you feel yourself being shaken around. The top lifts and you blink against the strong lights. Lights, smells and sounds all assault your senses and surround you. Hands grab you, hauling you out of the box.

You don't understand what is happening. These people pull your ears and tail, and bare their teeth as they laugh. You try to show them you're scared and mean them no harm, but they don't seem to know why you're wagging your tail and whining.

Fast forward a bit further. The hands have tired of pulling and poking you and you're set down amid a sea of wrapping paper and curly ribbons as they find new interests. Timidly you wander away. Forgotten. You are so scared. Maybe you can find your mother.

The point of this sad tale is this: while it may seem wonderful to bring a puppy or kitten home for Christmas, the reality is it is often a bad idea. There are times

when it can be delightful, but conditions have to be met first. Impulsiveness and pets are seldom a good mix, especially at the holidays. The pets are scared, the kids get overwhelmed and it doesn't take long for the novelty to wear off. Unlike a toy to be pushed to the back of the closet, the pet usually ends up relegated outside or taken to the shelter. Statistically, a large percentage of puppies and kittens are surrendered to shelters in the weeks of January and February—discarded Christmas gifts.

Instead, there are important questions and good options before bringing a new baby home. If the family is determined to get a new pet for the holidays, have the adults in the household decided beforehand where the pet will live, who will take control of its care, and are all necessary supplies included as additional gifts? Is there going to be a quiet place it can go and escape loud celebrations? Will the family be home to care for it or are do they have travel plans over the holidays?

If a new pet is really desired, but the answers above aren't in the pet's best interest, there are still options. Give the gift of supplies and an IOU, and maybe even a photo, all neatly packaged to be opened, along with a promise to deliver once things return to normal. For a family already stressed on holiday obligations, this is a far better option. It also teaches children that pets should never be obtained impulsively and they require time and commitment.

Bottom line: If the holidays is not a good time to introduce a pet, it would be better to wait. Hopefully, your new pet will be a member of the family for years to come. Waiting a week or so to get it can make all the difference in making the transition smoother for everyone.

Ryan Jo Summers is a local author, dog-sitter, and long-time animal advocate. She lives with several rescued and stray pets. You can learn more about her pets and writing at www.ryanjosummers.com, www.summersrye.wordpress.com and on her Facebook pages. 🐾

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Paws & Effect service dogs in-training to present “My Dog Doesn’t Know Sit”

Atalented troupe of 10-week old future service dogs for injured veterans will show off their skills on Saturday, November 10 – the day before Veterans’ Day – in a titillatingly titled show of skills and loving enthusiasm.

The demonstrations will take place at the Eluvium Brewing Company, 11 Florida Ave., just off Main Street in Weaverville. The puppies, Yellow and Black Labradors, will show how they open hinged doors, turn lights on and off , assist those with mobility impairments, know how to walk on a variety of surfaces, how to tolerate movement for different activities such as kayaking, and how to rest quietly in public settings. Their tail wagging presentations will be made every half hour from 2 until 8pm.

Area volunteers raise the puppies while they go through a 20 month training period that begins when they are just seven months old. The volunteers meet weekly at Black Mountain’s Christmount Retreat Center to socialize and share experiences.

The Hero Litter of pups that will perform on November 10 was imported by Paws & Effect from Iowa, where the organization was founded in 2006. Paws & Effect raises, trains and places service dogs with people whose disabling conditions cover a broad range. In 2016, a Western North Carolina (WNC) branch was created in Black Mountain to celebrate the group’s 10th anniversary, according to Executive Director Nicole Shumate.

One reason our area was chosen for a Paws & Effect branch operation was because a 2017 Veterans Administration nationwide internal survey the ranked the Asheville VA Hospital as the best of all 141 VA Hospitals. The beauty of WNC and the availability of miles of hiking trails were also factors drawing Paws & Effect to Black Mountain. Hiking with their service dogs, along with a group of other vets with *their* service dogs, is a therapy encouraged by Paws & Effect to help veterans readjust to civilian life.

But perhaps the biggest reason for choosing WNC was the Iowa-Asheville connection resulting from the tragic suicide death of combat veteran Wade Allen Baker of Canton in 2015. He had received service dog Honor from Paws & Effect in early 2013. But despite all the help and companionship he received from caring professionals, friends and family, Baker could not overcome his feelings of being socially isolated.

NY Times bestselling author Sebastian Junger, speaking of veterans having trouble re-integrating into civilian life, said: “They were eating together, sleeping together, doing

tasks and missions together. They were trusting each other with their lives. And then they come home and they have to give all that up and they’re coming back to a society, a modern society, which is hard on people that weren’t even in the military. It’s just hard on everybody. And we keep focusing on trauma, PTSD. But for a lot of these people, maybe it’s not trauma. I mean, certainly, Soldiers are traumatized and the ones who are have to be treated for that. But a lot of them – maybe what’s bothering them is actually a kind of alienation.”

“We have an obligation,” Shumate believes, “to support veterans after they separate from the military. With more than 100 successfully matched service dog teams, we are excited to focus our efforts on the communities in Western North Carolina.”

The site of the Paws & Effect “My Dog Doesn’t Know Sit” program, Eluvium Brewing Company, was picked for the dogs’ demonstrations more by accident than by careful analysis. The firm is co-owned by Jon Varner and his fiancée, Shea Lewis. When a Paws & Effect volunteer stopped in and chatted about the plan to have the service dog in-training event, Varner volunteered to have Eluvium host the event. An Army veteran and Navy reservist himself, he was more than happy to help Paws & Effect help other vets.

According to Varner, the name Eluvium comes from eluvial gold placer deposits which made North Carolina America’s leading producer of gold until the 1849 discovery of gold in California. Eluvial deposits are those left when the surrounding soil and sediment is washed away, leaving rich heavy gold deposits behind. Learning this, Varner says, he thought to himself, “We want to make gold medal worthy beer, so we’ll call ourselves Eluvium Brewing Company.”

Paws & Effect has placed about 95 service dogs since its founding. While only one veteran in WNC has been given a dog – free, as are all the dogs provided by the organization – Shumate predicts that many WNC veterans will be helped before long. “We would love to meet veterans who desire a service dog partnership,” she said. “While there is a short waiting list, we encourage people to initiate conversations.”

Shumate said that those interested in finding out more about Paws & Effect – whether to get a dog or to volunteer – should come to the November 10 event at Eluvium Brewery. She also said she can be reached by email at nicoleshumate@paws-effect.org.



Service dog in training on fit pods.

Book Review

Riding Home: The Power of Horses to Heal

by Tim Hayes St. Martin’s Press \$24.99 292 pages Foreword by Robert Redford

In this powerful book about the healing relationship between horses and people, author Tim Hayes introduces us to those suffering from many different types of afflictions. All were put on the road to recovery through encounters with horses through Equine Therapy. Here are just some of them:

Cody was a Marine stationed in Iraq. Driving his seven-ton truck to deliver supplies, a car exploded next to him, and he hit the gas. He didn’t stop until he arrived at base, running over anything in his path – men, women, and children. At home he hated himself and no therapy had relieved him of his terrible PTSD. The Wounded Warrior Project put him in touch with Hearts and Horses, where Cody met Dusty. Cody said, “I didn’t trust anybody. Dusty got some of it back for me. It’s like he brought me home.”

When Kyle was seven, his parents divorced. By high school, he had been to many therapists, but was increasingly at risk. Smoking marijuana weekly, getting into fights, and finally, when arrested for attempted theft, his parents sent him to InBalance Ranch Academy for a one-year program for troubled adolescents. According to Tim Hayes’ research, often the equine therapy program there provides the most effective breakthroughs in the restoration of teens’ emotional health. After his year there, Kyle’s father said “I think the horses helped Kyle begin to discover who he is.”

Morris was an inmate at the “Alcatraz of the Rockies”, a supermax facility in Colorado. He had been a member of the East Side Crips of L.A., and had never seen a live horse. He was chosen to be a participant in the prison’s Wild Horse Inmate Program, established to teach prisoners to train the wild mustangs rescued by the Bureau of Land Management. When Morris met mustang, he quickly found out that a wild mustang isn’t docile. It will turn and fight, and sometimes kill. The horse went up on his hind legs, and Morris, a muscled and tough man, found himself on the ground. After three days, following the natural horsemanship technique based on kindness, understanding and love, used in the program, Morris could work with the horse and said to Hayes, “they ain’t mean... just scared.” His personality, says Hayes in *Riding Home*, had shifted.

Riding Home is more than a book of stories personal healing from affliction. It provides the many resources available to take advantage of Equine Therapy. Tim Hayes also brings to the subject of Equine Therapy the reasons why this healing is possible. As an internationally recognized natural horsemanship clinician, he has observed the connection between people and horses for many years. The book is rich with insights into the process.

Hayes describes the horse’s personality and character as follows: “accepting, tolerant, kind, respectful, honest, fair, nonjudgmental, compassionate, and forgiving”. But as a prey animal, the horse has a fear that it will be eaten by a predator. Hayes says, “Everyone has a reaction when they meet a horse. It is this instantaneous and simultaneous identification of either love or fear, experienced from either horse to human or human to horse, that creates an opportunity for compassion, true self-awareness, and therefore, profound emotional healing that is not only extraordinary but unlike any other interspecies relationship on the planet.”

Riding Home is rich with so much more information, it is impossible to include everything here. Just a sampling: prehistoric horses; history of natural horsemanship from Ireland through American cowboys; how the moves of the cowboy with his horse, are similar to dressage and the great warhorses in battle; how the elite European riding schools evolved from the generals on those horses; the connection of horses to the technological sickness of our age; explanations of techniques of natural horsemanship; why horses do not suffer PTSD.

This information is all of a piece with why the human/horse bond has the power to heal – and has been doing so since the beginning of time. In *Riding Home*, Tim Hayes has created a book which itself has the power to heal. If horses could write, this would be the book.

Ed. Note: A local resource for Equine Therapy is Heart of Horse Sense. More information is available at HeartofHorseSense.org.

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Some decorations not bird friendly

by Emily Trimnal

Many of the holiday decorations we use around the house can be as dangerous to avian friends as they are pretty. So to help keep your holidays safe, here are some common holiday household dangers to be aware of.

Among the most common decorations for the winter season is mistletoe. This often seen holiday plant that harbors such a fairy tale legend also has a dark side. Mistletoe is part of the Viscaceae family and the form commonly seen in North America is a hybrid plant of both English and European varieties. Mistletoe is famous for bearing its fruit in the winter months, making it a popular decoration during the Christmas season. But its red berries are toxic to our avian friends, as are holly berries. Another favorite holiday plant, the Poinsettia, can cause GI tract irritation if ingested.

Other holiday decorations such as tinsel, angel hair, and other common Christmas tree adornments are made of plastic. They should be kept out of reach of your bird(s) at all times, as they could become impacted in the crop if accidentally ingested. Your favorite holiday scents can be dangerous to your birds, too. Burning candles should be used with diligence, and birds should always be kept in the cage if a candle is lit. Candles, which have a bad reputation for lead in the wick, are safer now due to new regulations. More bird owners are

beginning to use them again with caution. If you do use a candle, use one that is made of a natural material such as soy or beeswax and is not heavily scented. Remember, our feathered friends have a respiratory system different than ours. Because of the way the air they breathe travels into their system any scent can be especially irritating.

Remember as you invite holiday guests into your home to keep tempting foodstuffs away from your avian companion(s). Alcoholic beverages, chocolate, and avocado should not be given to your bird under any circumstances.

Of course, despite all these cautions, your feathered friends can still participate in the festivities of the holiday! Buying a festive bird-safe toy to adorn the cage is a safe and fun way to celebrate and keep your companion happy and entertained. Holiday-themed toys are especially fun! Many pet owners also have gotten into the spirit of gift giving with their companions. For added fun, wrap the ‘gift’ in a piece of newspaper and place in the bird’s cage. Watch the bird unravel the present with delight!

Emily Trimnal is a Certified Avian Specialist, a Level 2 Aviculturist with the American Federation of Aviculture, and a regular contributor to PetGazette. Her blog is Emily’s Birds.

Growing dog sport nothing to sniff at

According to the American Kennel Club, (AKC), a dog’s sense of smell is somewhere between 10,000 and 100,000 times more acute than a human’s. Now K9 Scent Work in Asheville provides dogs with the opportunity to put that natural ability to work in a way that’s fun and rewarding for canine and human alike.

The sport is parallel to the way dogs are trained for tracking, search and rescue, and drug and bomb sniffing tasks: They are exposed to the scent they are to find and then let loose to find it. In scent work, the dogs are presented with the heads of cotton swabs that have been impregnated with the scent of anise, birch, cloves or cypress. Then the exemplars are hidden in the nearby environment. Training is started indoors, with the swabs hidden in various places such as under a towel, inside a box, or even in holes in the walls. As dogs become more adept at sniffing out their target, the challenge can be moved outdoors, where there will be more odors in the air to compete for the dog’s attention.

Dog trainer Lezle Stein introduced K9 Scent Work to Asheville in the summer just past. She explained that scent work as a sport started in California over ten years ago and has already become popular internationally. The United States now has official AKC Scent Work competitions, including events in Greenville, SC and Atlanta, GA.

Stein works with dogs in a 4,000 square foot indoor facility and trains just one dog at a time while a pet parent works with her. She says the work is rewarding for all concerned. Especially the dogs. They get to use their incredibly sensitive, natural sense of

smell to achieve a goal for which they will be rewarded. (Note: The rewards can be treats or pats in training, but only verbal in AKC competitions.) Unlike dog sports in which the human is in charge, scent work puts the dog in charge. The successes and the rewards that come with them help build the dog’s confidence, which is especially important for dogs that have suffered from abuse, apathy or abandonment. That’s why scent work is often used in shelters to help rescued dogs be prepared for adoption.

Scent work is also an excellent way to provide physical and mental stimulation for dogs that are negatively reactive to other dogs. Stein told of one reactive dog she works with that comes in, has his scent workout, and is returned to his car to avoid interaction with other canine “clients.”

Scent hounds such as bloodhounds and beagles can naturally excel at scent work. After all, that’s what they were born to do. But scent hounds are not the only kind of dogs that can benefit from scent work. In fact, K9 Scent Work in Asheville is open to dogs of all kinds and all ages – from pedigreed champions to the ubiquitous Heinz 57 – America’s most popular breed.

More and more ways are being developed these days to harness dogs’ incredible sense of smell. Some dogs are being used to find termites. Others identify cancer. And many more find little scented pieces of cotton while having fun with their pet parent. In every case, Stein says, those people are “letting their dogs be dogs.”

For more about K9 Scent Work in Asheville, visit HandleWoofCare.com, or call dog trainer Lezle Stein at 323 229-4143.



Beagle puppy doing what beagles are born to do.

O’Henry’s after-party to follow Drag Queen Bingo

Much like the Hollywood parties following the Oscar awards, the fun and frolicking will continue in Asheville following the 2018 Drag Queen Bingo annual fundraiser of Brother Wolf Animal Rescue (BWAR).

The main event, on Friday, November 2, will be presented by O’Henry’s of Asheville at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Resort at 1 Resort Drive, Asheville. This year’s Drag Queen Bingo festivities will be emceed by the famous, or infamous, depending on whom you ask, Honey LaBronx, New York City’s gift to the world of drag queens. LaBronx

to about 9:30pm, depending on the length of pauses for cheers, applause and astonishment. Afterward, energetic and adventurous patrons who are at least 21 years old can extend their evening’s fun by toddling down to O’Henry’s at 237 Haywood Street, Asheville. There will be drag shows at 11pm and midnight featuring many of the same drag queens who entertained at the main event.

Standard admission to O’Henry’s is \$10 at the door, but those who can show their Drag Queen Bingo ticket can gain admission for just \$5. Tickets cannot be purchased in advance.

At PetGazette press time, Drag



Photos by Camilla Calhoun Photography

“Lady” in red generated fanfare in past.



Happy Bingoists at previous event.



Past volunteer watching dog watching drag queens.

will head a line-up of people and activities that will generate laughing, singing, and more than a few “OMGs” from a capacity crowd. All the while, volunteers will give Bingo-goers the chance to meet adoptable pets that are the focus of BWAR’s mission.

The Crowne Plaza doings will start at 7pm, when the doors open. The show will begin at 8pm and run

Queen Bingo sponsors included Abolut Vodka, Beer City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Blue Ridge Roller Girls, Gay Asheville Nc, CM Photography, Shay Brown

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Treibball rolls winningly into Asheville

Four dog-human teams from Asheville were the first in North Carolina to earn Treibball titles.

The sport, pronounced try-ball, started in Germany about 2003, and the title is derived from the German word for “push”. Treibball is often referred to as “urban herding” because it was developed as a way to provide positive reinforcement for citified, sheep-challenged herding dogs. Treibballers get physical and mental stimulation with their handler in a way that utilizes their inherent herding abilities.

Although Treibball was originally a non-competitive activity, a competitive version soon developed. By 2008 there were competitive Treibball events. The new sport came to the United States in 2011 and the



Asheville’s Treibball winning teams: Right to left: Barbara Troyer with Jake, Carolyn Bigley with Bodhi, and Barbara Pharr with Jordan.

National Association of Treibball Enthusiasts (NATE) was later formed. The organization makes and enforces rules, sanctions competitions and awards titles and certifies trainers. The basics of Treibball are simple: A dog pushes, or “herds”, a ball or balls into a goal using head, body or paws. A dog and handler work as a team to “herd” large balls, sometimes referred to as “rolling sheep”, into a soccer-style goal within an allotted time. Before the event begins, the balls are placed in a triangular formation on the playing field at a designated distance from the handler area. When the clock starts, the dog must push the balls into the goal at the direction of the handler as quickly as possible. Once all the balls have been pushed into the goal, the clock stops.

Treibball dog/handler teams compete in events by class, size and age. The balls used in each event vary by size appropriate to the size of the competing dogs. Balls vary in size from roughly 18 inches to 30 inches. The NATE website lists levels and definitions as follows:

Pre-Novice is an opportunity for teams to demonstrate and receive recognition for their mastery of the foundation skills of Treibball. Dogs will bring in one ball at a time which is set 15 or 20 feet from the goal line. There are then two resets for a total of 3 balls. Standard course time is 2 minutes 25 seconds. This is the only Level at which food or toy or play rewards are allowed on the competition field. Pre-Novice level is optional. Teams may start at the Novice level.

Novice level uses three balls set in a triangle 20 or 25 feet from the goal line. Standard course time is 2 minutes.

Intermediate level uses six balls set in a triangle 30 to 35 feet from the goal line. Standard course time is 3 minutes.

Advanced level uses eight balls set in a triangle with three rows 35 to 45 feet from the goal line. Standard course time is 4 minutes.

Master level uses eight balls set in a triangle with three rows 45 to 55 feet from the goal line. Standard course time is 4 minutes.

by Kathryn R. Gubista, PhD

Every domestic dog, from family to working dog, should be good citizens of the community. At the very least, dogs should not make an unnecessary fuss of any kind, especially in public places. They should be quiet and not invade the space of others. They should exhibit self-control and stay “out of trouble”. Dogs should always be next to their human partners or under their watchful eyes. This is the image of a *Canine Good Citizen*.

Is Your Dog a Canine Good Citizen?

To be an official “*Canine Good Citizen*”, you and your dog must demonstrate competency in a series of tasks. Curious if you and your dog would meet the criteria? Below is a checklist of *Canine Good Citizen* (CGC) skills.

Canine Good Citizen Checklist

- ✓ Absolutely NO Aggression (no biting, snapping, growling, snarling)
- ✓ Potty Trained (no accidents)
- ✓ Accepts human strangers to approach (solo and with dogs)
- ✓ Sits quietly and accepts petting from friendly strangers
- ✓ Stands quietly for physical examination and grooming
- ✓ Walks with human partner on loose leash
- ✓ Walks easily through high distraction areas (crowds/downtown)
- ✓ Remains calm in PLACE with distractions (dogs, joggers, bikes, cars, motorcycles)
- ✓ Remains calm in PLACE without human partner (3 minutes)
- ✓ Comes when called
- ✓ Obedience Skills — SIT, STAND,

Is Your Dog a Canine Good Citizen?

DOWN, COME, PLACE, STAY

Ground Rules – Simple Collar & Leash

The only dog training equipment allowed during CGC evaluations is a simple collar/harness and leash. No training collars, halters or limiting harnesses. No clickers. No food. You may use your voice and hands. You may speak to your dog to guide them through the tasks. You are encouraged to praise your dogs, both verbally and physically (petting). Should be a fun experience!

Results of Your Evaluation

Did you go through the checklist? Would you and your dog be able to successfully complete all the tasks on the checklist? If so – congratulations! Your dog is a candidate for CGC certification. However, if your dog doesn’t meet the CGC criteria, what should you do? Does it matter?

Canine Good Citizen

If you want your dog to have the best life possible, you should teach your dog the life skills needed to be a good citizen. Each CGC skill eliminates stress from your life too. Life with your dog becomes stress-free and pure joy. In addition, many people would like their dog to be a therapy dog, which requires CGC certification. Although CGC certification does not make your dog a therapy dog, all therapy dogs must have CGC skills.

Our Dog Responsibilities

The CGC program was created to encourage responsible dog ownership. Training your dog so that they can enjoy a happy life is the least we could do for them. Our dogs give us so much to enrich our lives. They love us. Protect us. Play with us. Calm us. Why should we care if they are not canine good

citizens? Because not having good citizen skills negatively affect their lives and ours. We owe it to our dogs and ourselves to teach them these life skills.

What Can You Do?

The simple answer is “train your dog”. But, as we all know, life is not simple. Life is very complicated. Getting to weekly dog training classes is just not a realistic endeavor for many. You need something to work around your schedule. And, you would like to start seeing results sooner rather than later. The answer is a professional to help you train your dog.

Professional help is available.

Lucky Dog Training Asheville has a range of programs designed to meet CGC criteria and work around clients’ busy schedules. The firm offers board and train for immersion training as well as group classes at for practicing socialization skills. Stress in people’s lives is reduced by helping people and their dogs be good citizens of the community. And Lucky Dog Training Asheville is an official *AKC Canine Good Citizen* evaluator that can certify dogs as official Canine Good Citizens.

Kathryn R. Gubista, PhD is an evolutionary biologist, college biology instructor, former zookeeper, author, and Certified Professional Dog Trainer with Lucky Dog Training Asheville. She has over 30 years of dog training and human teaching experience. For more information, contact her at TrainingLuckyDogs@gmail.com or at 828-423-9635. 🐾



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Cancer in cats and dogs

by Korrine Whited

November is National Pet Cancer Awareness Month and an important time for pet lovers to familiarize themselves with the basics of cancer in cats and dogs.

To many people, pets are family, and a cancer diagnosis can generate a scary and uncertain time. A thousand questions may cross the pet parent's mind. "How did this happen?", "Could I have prevented this?", "Am I going to lose my pet?", and "What are the options?"

The good news is that there have been incredible advancements in the field of veterinary oncology, and many canine and feline cancers are treatable or have a good prognosis with appropriate intervention.

So how common is cancer in cats and dogs? According to the National Canine Cancer Foundation, one in three dogs will be diagnosed with cancer at some point during its life. One in five cats receives a cancer diagnosis. A few of the most common canine cancers are lymphoma (cancer of the lymph nodes/lymphatic system), skin cancer (melanoma and mast cell tumors), osteosarcoma (bone cancer), hemangiosarcoma (cancer of blood vessels), and mammary cancer. Some common feline cancers are mammary cancer, skin cancer (squamous cell carcinoma), and lymphoma. Signs and symptoms of cancer in pets include lumps and bumps, loss of appetite, weight loss, oozing or bleeding masses, and lethargy. These symptoms don't always mean cancer, but if you notice your pet exhibiting any of these signs, schedule an appointment to get them examined

by your family veterinarian.

Is cancer in cats and dogs preventable? There is no definitive answer to this question, but pet owners can take steps to help prevent a lot of the common pet cancers. For one, spaying your female cat or dog greatly decreases their chance of developing mammary cancer. Neutering your male cat or dog prevents the development of testicular cancer. Just as humans, cats and dogs are susceptible to cancer-causing chemicals. Reducing your pet's exposure to toxins such as cigarette smoke, harsh cleaning products, pesticides, and lawn care chemicals will reduce their chance of developing related cancers. Some cancers are also related to genetics. For example, mast cell tumors are a common cancer seen in Boxers and are the most common skin cancer in dogs overall.

There are many canine and feline cancer treatment options available. Due to the advancements in veterinary oncology, a lot of the cancer treatments available to humans are also available for pets. Depending on the cancer, surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, symptom management, or a combination of treatments is often used to manage and treat pet cancers. Depending on the cancer diagnosis, your family veterinarian may recommend a referral to a veterinary oncologist, a board-certified veterinary doctor who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of canine and feline cancers. Here in Western North Carolina, there is Upstate Veterinary Specialists, a veterinary hospital that specializes in many areas

including canine and feline oncology.

Unfortunately, there are some cancer diagnoses that result in a poor prognosis and limited or no treatment options. While this is something that no pet owner wants for their furry family member, your veterinarian can provide palliative options to keep your pet comfortable throughout the reminder of their life.

While canine and feline cancer may not be completely preventable, one of the best steps you can take as a pet owner is to have your pet examined once or twice a year by your family veterinarian. A regular and thorough veterinary examination can be essential in the prognosis following diagnosis of cancer. Early detection and treatment play a huge role in the life expectancy of your pet after cancer has been detected.

If you have any questions or concerns about cancer in your cat or dog, contact your family veterinarian for a more personal discussion of your pet's healthcare. You can also visit the websites for Upstate Veterinary Specialists and the National Canine Cancer Foundation at upstatevet.com/health-library/cancer and wearthecure.org for more general information.

Korrine Whited is a Customer Service Representative at Upstate Veterinary Specialists, a specialty hospital that provides advanced medical, surgical, neurological, cancer, dental, and eye care for pets in Upstate South Carolina, Western North Carolina, and Northern Georgia.



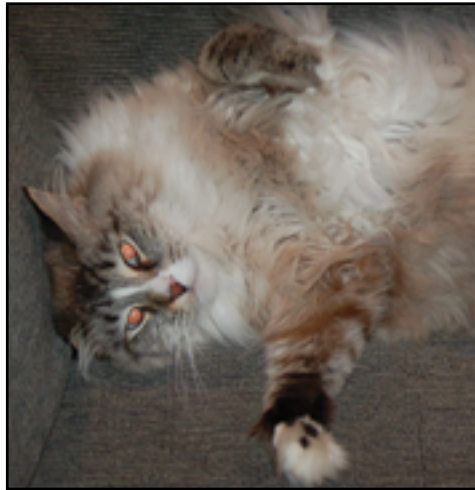
Pet Obituaries

Sphinx

Sphinx was one of the kittens that we fostered at the Animal Hospital of Waynesville 15 1/2 years ago. When I went to work every day, this one particular kitten seemed to call out my name from in the litter we had at the time.

He was a little spitfire of a kitten, standing in the back of the cage and hissing at us until one of us picked him up and gave him some love, which I did a lot. I would go home and tell my husband about this kitten and the answer I kept hearing was "No". So, the girls and I had the bright idea to have the clinic give us the kitten for a wedding gift (we were getting married in two weeks). This way, we could not return the kitten or refuse it. It worked (or he let me think it did), so Sphinx became our third kitty.

Sphinx was always a mommy's baby, sleeping by my head and purring every night. We miss him very much, but know he is in a better place with no sickness. We love you, Sphinxy!



"Sphinx was a little spitfire..."

Willow

Willow's life started out tough and she ended up at the shelter as a terrified little bundle of fluff. When I first saw her she was shaking and trying to get as

far under her shelter bed as she could. I went into her kennel and sat on the floor and quietly talked to her. Eventually I picked her up and carried her out to the front where it was quieter and she could meet what were to be her new dad and sister, our other little furgirl, Baby. We knew she needed us as much as we needed her. That was on February 3, 2008.

Willow was terrified of people and barked at everybody every time they came to our house or when we were out on our walks. Even if she saw someone standing on their porch she would bark at them. And she hated putting on her halter. She would hide under the table and we would have to resort to trickery. Once her halter was on she would run and roll around

and even act like a little bucking bronco. But, after she got past the irritation of her halter, she was always ready to go for a walk or a ride in the car.

When Willow joined our family, she had no idea what toys were. We had a great time introducing her to all kinds of things. She grew into a funny, loving little furball. Baby taught her lots of things too, like how to hunt for moles in the back yard. She loved watching squirrels and chasing them out of the yard. If she could have figured out how to get up the tree to chase them further, I'm sure she would have.

In January, the lymph nodes under Willow's chin swelled up. We took her to the vet thinking she had an infection. We were devastated when the vet said "lymphoma". Like a trooper, she went to chemo in Asheville every week and went into remission early on. When she

finished chemo, at the end of May, we were so hopeful that she would have a long remission. Unfortunately her remission was short and her lymph nodes were already starting to swell at her six week follow-up. She crossed the rainbow bridge on September 6.

Willow was a huge joy in our lives. She loved playing with her squeaky toys and would dig in the toy box to find her favorite. She loved peanut butter bones and mom's homemade cookies. When she looked into my eyes I could see her soul. Her love was deep. When I spent too much time working, she would come tell me it was time to stop and pet her or play. When she left she took a piece of my heart. There's a hole in our family, we miss her so much. We'll cherish the memories she gave us forever.

Bee Volpe



"Willow was a huge joy..."



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Protect Pets from Holiday Threats

by Karel Carnohan, DVM

The Holidays are coming! Pets are known to spoil a good Thanksgiving dinner or Christmas party by getting into trouble. So here are some things to be aware of to prevent a costly trip to the emergency clinic.

CHOCOLATE: Chocolate is like cocaine to pets and can be deadly if enough is consumed. Bakers' and dark chocolate are much more dangerous than milk or white chocolate. A big dog would need to eat a lot of milk chocolate to get sick, but if he eats a bar of baking chocolate, he could die. Symptoms occur within 6 to 12 hours of ingestion and begin with vomiting, drinking excessively, diarrhea, and restlessness. It progresses to hyperactivity, tremors, seizures, hyperthermia and coma. Death is caused by heart arrhythmias and respiratory failure.

Here are some guidelines to help you determine if you should rush Buddy to R.E.A.C.H.:

A small dog (5lb) can eat 1 oz. of milk chocolate but not 3 oz. Even 1 oz. of dark chocolate in a small dog can be dangerous.

A med dog (10lb) must eat 3 oz. of milk chocolate to get sick and can tolerate 1oz. but not 2 oz. of dark chocolate.

A big dog (35lb) can gobble up to 8 oz. of milk chocolate, but when he gets to 10 oz., take him to emergency. He will be in danger eating over 4 oz. of dark chocolate.

Almost *any amount* of semi-sweet or baker's chocolate is dangerous.

Just to give you perspective: a Hershey bar of milk chocolate is 1.6oz. So just one of these bars is dangerous to a small dog. A bag of Ghirardelli's semi-sweet chips (more dangerous than dark) is 12 oz., so it is very dangerous if partially consumed by even a big dog. Many popular candy bars don't have much chocolate in them and most of it is milk, but designer chocolate bars with 78% cacao are very toxic.

If you aren't sure, take your dog to the emergency clinic.

TABLE SCRAPS: Oh, I know – it is hard to resist those pitiful eyes looking up at you. But a cat or dog's digestive system can go into overload with rich food they are not used to. The big risk is pancreatitis, which is life-threatening. Both cats and dogs get extremely sick and their livers can fail. Less

deadly is diarrhea due to intestinal bacterial overgrowth. It is okay to give Buddy and Fluffy a SMALL amount of lean meat, but please keep it small.

Foods pets should NEVER eat because of toxicity are **GRAPES**, RAISINS, ONIONS, GARLIC, MACADAMIA NUTS, **COFFEE** and **AVOCADOS**. If you are a baker, RAW BREAD DOUGH is extremely dangerous since it expands in your pet's stomach. Sugarless gum and candies that contain XYLITOL are also very dangerous.

TOXIC PLANTS: Table centerpieces and holiday flower arrangements are a lovely addition, but keep them away from the pets. Cats are especially attracted to plants in a vase and will chew and ingest potentially toxic ones. In addition, I have seen broken glass injuries from those tempting vases. **MISTLETOE**, **PINE NEEDLES**, **HOLLY** and any kind of LILY, including day lilies, Amaryllis and Asian lilies are all toxic. HOPS are toxic too, so no double IPAs for pooch. RHUBARB can fry a dog or cat's kidneys. Many ornamentals such as **CARNATIONS**, **CHRYSANTHEMUMS**, **PEONIES**, **ELEPHANT EARS** and **SAGO PALMS** all have varying toxicities. **POINSETTIAS** can cause mild burning in the mouth and hypersalivation, but are not all that toxic. Best just to keep the plants out of reach. If you need help, the ASPCA has a good website and an emergency hotline at www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE: One Christmas it took only 30 minutes for my cat to bring the tree crashing down. I had to anchor my tree to the wall to prevent it from crashing twice. Blunt trauma, electric shock and broken glass are all dangers of a toppled tree. Risk of fire from frayed cords and dried trees is very real. Please plug in your tree lights only when home and make sure your tree doesn't get too dry.

Have a wonderful holiday season and keep your loved ones safe.

After a long career in finance, Dr. Carnohan returned to school and graduated from the Kansas State College of Veterinary Medicine at the tender age of 50. She has owned the Cat Care Clinic of Asheville since 2013.



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